

The Eagle's View

Abilities Expo

Plan it and they will come...and they did! The 2014 TRC Abilities EXPO brought more than twice the number of 2013 participants with over 200 visitors attending the 2014 event on October 16.

Official planners and event developers TRC staff Nancy Patterson and Anthony Wesner began their work months ago in preparation for the day's activities in recognition of National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM).

Nineteen external business partners and prospective partners including five area colleges, advocate agencies and seven current employers provided information to attendees from their displays exhibited in the gymnasium. Nine high schools were represented with a total of 104 attendees. Additionally, prospective students and their families attended. *(Pictured center right: Exhibits in gymnasium)*

The seven presentation speakers were greeted with capacity audiences. Presentations included: Accommodating Your Deaf and Hard of Hearing Employees (Thom Roberts-TRC Deaf Services Coordinator), Perseverance and Volunteerism in the Path to Employment (Sheri Anderson-TRC Rehab Instructor Assistive Technology), Accessing Higher Education with a Disability (Lance Alexis-MTSU Disability Access Center Director), Benefits to Work Program (Glenn McReynolds-Tennessee Disability Coalition), Communicating Effectively with Law Enforcement (Smyrna Police Officers Mike Gibson and Michael Potts), The Center for Independent Living (Emily Hoskins and Steven Glowicki), and the Life of a Working Chef (Southern Foodservice TRC Chef Debra Noles).

The day's activities also included guided and self-directed tours of TRC programs. Participants were able to visit the seven program areas and talk with instructors and currently enrolled students. *(Pictured top right: Building Maintenance/ Grounds Keeping Program)*

Special recognition is extended to Smyrna Mayor Mary Ester Reed and Smyrna Town Council members Marc Adkins and H.G. Cole for their attendance and support of this year's event; and to TRC Student Council members Marcus Johnson, Patrick Westmoreland, and student Joshua Williams who assisted as greeters, hosts, runners and guides.



Consortium Teams Visit TRC-Smyrna



(Pictured Above) John Jackson, Lead Rehab Counselor, Woodrow Wilson Rehab Center, VA.

(Below L-Right) Barbara Pugh, CEO-Carl Perkins Center, Kentucky; Matt King, Assistant Director of Adult Education-Carl Perkins Center; Allison King, Food Service Director-Carl Perkins Center; and Dr. Dawn Simpson, Director Vocational Training-Roosevelt Warm Springs Institute, Arkansas.



Did you know that TRC-Smyrna is one of only eight Vocational Rehabilitation Centers in the nation? TRC-Smyrna hosted representatives from those seven centers for their annual consortium. The meeting was an opportunity for sharing ideas and current practices in all the centers. Participating in the meetings were staff representatives from Woodrow Wilson Rehab Center, VA; Carl D. Perkins Center, KY; Roosevelt Warm Springs Institute, GA; Arkansas Career Training Institute, AR; Workforce and Technology Center, MD; Michigan Career and Technical Institute; and the Hiram G. Andrews Center, PA. As a result of those meetings, 34 Perkins Center staff will tour TRC Smyrna in December to observe TRC programs and service delivery.



(L-R Above) Toni Micucci, TRC Certified Occupational Therapist Assistant guides Rick Sizemore as he works through a visual exercise on the Dynavision equipment in the Traumatic Brain Injury Program. Rick serves as CEO of the Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center, in Virginia.

Once again... Thank You to Walgreens!

Staying ahead of the seasonal threats of flu, six Walgreens pharmacy staff held the first Walgreens Flu Clinic at TRC on October 28. The flu vaccine was provided by Walgreens for students and staff. Walgreens staff and Student Health nurse, Mark Saylor, LPN travelled to each individual training/program area to administer the flu vaccine to a total of 80 students and staff requesting the preventative injections.



Participating Walgreens staff were pleased with the interest and stated that the Flu Clinic progressed smoothly throughout the day.

All agreed that the first Clinic was a success and plans were discussed for next year's 2015 Walgreens Flu Clinic Day. Once again, a thank you goes to Walgreens for another great collaboration with TRC to meet the needs of the students and staff.

TRC Hosts Round 'About Rutherford



What better way is there to learn about business opportunities than networking with local business owners/representatives than in the second annual October "Round 'About Rutherford" event at TRC? Five of the TRC Student Council members will tell you there is no better way. Co-hosted this year by TRC and the Tennessee Chiropractic Alliance, the Chamber of Commerce luncheon, served by Food Service students, provided the venue for businesses to network and students to participate in the real world of business connections. Chamber business members and five TRC students sat across from each other networking and rotating among other participants as they shared information about their businesses and students about their work abilities and job interests. Council members Marcus Johnson, Marcus McCann, Steven Heisler, Tasha Ferrell, and Patrick Westmoreland honed their interview skills during the exchange networking with the representatives for a first hand, "real world" experience of an informal job interview.



(Top Picture,) Tasha Ferrell signs to her interpreter as she shares with her Chamber of Commerce business partner her training program information and job search info during the Round 'About Rutherford activities.

(Pictured left to right in the three series of pictures above)

TRC Student Council President Marcus Johnson shares his business interests pursuits with an area businessman while Marcus McCann, Steven Heisler, and Patrick Westmoreland rotate in the Round 'About activities with Chamber members. Marcus McCann says it all in the final picture with the handshake connecting and finalizing that connection between him and a Chamber member. After all, connecting is what networking is all about and the annual Round 'About once again provides that hands on opportunity for TRC students.

Eagle's Pride Job Club



TRC Case Manager, Charles Houck was the presenter at a recent Eagle's Pride Job Club meeting. Sharing with students about the personal and professional benefits of fitness, Charles explained how staying fit can make a person a better employee. He asked the students to brainstorm with him ways that their productivity at work could improve with better health. After the discussion, he led the students on an outdoor walk demonstrating that even those with mobility issues could still participate and have a great time. He reports that the students listened intently and they report he did a great job.

Standing behind Charles (L-R) Lacy Wood, Katie Adams, and Chris Zirkel

Determination Proves Success At Its Best

With his employment goal in mind, Dennis Cleek did all the right things to get a job after graduating from the TRC Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) program.

Determined to get back into the workforce, he worked closely with Monteagle VR Counselor Gretchen Wright, who referred him to Caring Inc. in Jasper to further develop his employment skills. Once he completed that program, he began working with Placement Specialist Rosa Wayne, to update his resume and continue practicing his interview skills. While at Caring Inc., he also had the opportunity to work offsite for the Lodge Skillet Co. in South Pittsburg, TN. Caring Inc. staff assisted him in contacting employers, completing applications and interviewing.

Those efforts and his determination paid off. On May 2, Dennis started his new position as a Customer Service Representative at Dollar General. His responsibilities include operating the cash register and stocking. He noted that when he works on the cash register, he focuses on being efficient and courteous so the customers receive prompt service. "I love working and I'm happy to be working again," Dennis said. He added that his supervisor told him that she is very pleased with his work. Not surprising, he has also taken the initiative of going one step ahead and cleans the store as needed. Working 20 - 25 hours per week, he has also been successful in passing his driver's license test thanks to Ms. Wright's assistance and drives himself to and from work. He is quick to recognize his mother for all the help she has given him in this journey. At the same time, he eagerly looks forward to his next goal of wanting to increase his work hours to full-time and live on his own. TBI and TRC applaud his determination and his great success story!



TRC Welcomes New Staff

Gabrielle Currie: Rehab Assistant
Tracy Fields: Rehab Instructor Blind
Leilani Halcomb: Clerk
Renee Hendricks: Nutritionist
Nick Holden: Rehab Assistant
Michelle McIntyre: Behavioral Instructor
Sarah Primm: Rehab Assistant
Thom Roberts: Coordinator Deaf Services

TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES



Helping shape Tennessee lives.

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Mission Statement

Tennessee Rehabilitation Center-Smyrna offers person-centered comprehensive services in a supportive learning environment to individuals with disabilities to increase independence and employment potential.

Organizational Values

Because we value our students:

*We are considerate
We are knowledgeable
We are resourceful and creative
We are flexible and adaptable
We are committed to excellence
We are leading by example
We are attentive and responsive to students' needs
We are making a POSITIVE difference*